



Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

MRSA

What is MRSA?	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph infection that is not killed by penicillin and similar antibiotics.
What do MRSA infections look like?	MRSA infections may look like any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sores that look and feel like spider bites (but are not spider bites)• Red painful bumps under the skin called boils or abscesses• A cut that is swollen, hot and filled with pus• Blisters filled with fluid or red skin with a honey-colored crust (usually on the face)• Red, warm, firm skin area that is painful and getting larger (usually on the legs)
How does a person get MRSA?	MRSA can be spread by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct skin-to-skin contact with an infected person• Touching surfaces that have MRSA on them from someone else's infection (e.g. towels, athletic equipment, used bandages) MRSA is not passed through air.
How can we prevent MRSA?	You can take steps to protect yourself from MRSA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice good hygiene:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Keep your hands clean by washing them often and thoroughly with soap and warm water or hand sanitizers.2. Bathe regularly3. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed. Pus from infected wounds can contain MRSA.4. Don't share personal items such as towels or clothing.5. Use a towel or other clothing while using shared equipment such as weight training benches.• Always take all your antibiotic medications as prescribed by your doctor• Do not save any antibiotics and do not use any antibiotics that were prescribed for someone else.
How are MRSA infections treated?	Depending on how serious the infection is, the doctor may drain the wound, prescribe antibiotics or hospitalize the patient.
What should I do if I think I have MRSA	If you think you have MRSA, call a doctor. Do not ignore the sore and hope it will go away.